

SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OLYMPIA DRAG

A Candid Glimpse at Fashion,
Art, and Performance

Curated by Garrett Leonard



South Puget Sound
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gallery Mission Statement

The Leonor R. Fuller Gallery at The Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts fosters transformative education and community connections through engaging and challenging exhibitions and programming.

COVER TITLE DESIGN FILL:

SYMMEXTRA (THEY/THEM)

Neon Tokyo

Acrylic paint

24" x 36

GALLERY DIRECTOR STATEMENT



Bringing together artists and performers at the Leo from Olympia's drag and adjacent communities has been a vision of mine for years. Although I am not a member of the drag community, in my life as an artist, arts educator, and arts administrator, I am aware of the historical intersections of the drag and queer communities with performance, visual and literary arts, and the humanities. As the gallery director for the Leo, my initial intent for the Olympia Drag exhibition was to simply reflect the creative depth within the long-standing Olympia traditions of drag performance and queer art. The complex terrain of queer expression is landscaped through genres in fashion, camp, humor, horror, literature, photography, painting, sculpture, film, music, stage presentation, and performance. These traditions are often overlooked or underrepresented in our Olympia community. As I worked with Garrett Leonard and many other art-

ists and allies, I found a community supporting profound explorations of respect, personal identity, representation, empowerment, challenges to conventional societal boundaries, and above all, love.

Olympia Drag was unique in that it presented an opportunity for many of the artists to exhibit very personal work never seen publicly before. The exhibition also presented a venue for some drag performers to showcase their talents and craft for the first time in a professional gallery exhibition space on display and at the opening reception performances. In this way, Olympia Drag was an exhibition that looked beyond the performative presentation of drag to reveal a vulnerable, intimate glimpse into the myriad forms of expression of the artists and performers. Visitors to the Leo experienced costumes and regalia, photographs, poetry, paintings, and printmaking shifting the perspectives of queer identity for many gallery visitors. For some visitors to the exhibit, which included students and community members, the exhibition was their first experience with drag performance and expressions of queer culture as an artform.

The Leonor R. Fuller Gallery Committee and I are grateful for the generosity of Garrett Leonard, Natalie "Wildtiny" Coblentz (They/Them) Director Capital City Pride, Free Range Drag artists and performers, and the many artists who shared their work, and their passions with the Leonor R. Fuller Gallery and the SPSCC campus community.

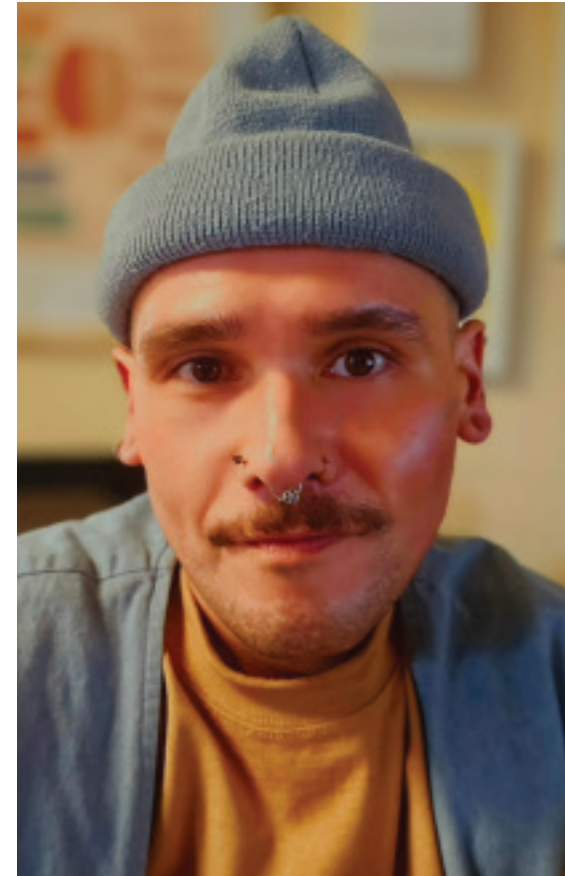
I am especially grateful to the mavens that guided us on this artistic journey. Thank you, Dana Evans, Nomy Lamm, Anna Schlecht, Sandra Bocas, Llyn Denaanan, Natalie "Wildtiny" Coblentz, and Symmextra. And a very special thanks to Ashly McBunch for sharing their devoted insights and providing context in the foreword, Transformative Art.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Barnes".

Sean Barnes, MFA
The Leonor R. Fuller Gallery Coordinator

GUEST CURATOR - GARRETT LEONARD STATEMENT



Olympia Drag is beautifully unique and breaks the ideas we have of traditional mainstream drag performers. The Local drag scene in our community has a punk aspect unlike any other, and holds gender norms, no bounds, and has a way of embodying queer performance art in a campy fashion. When I was presented with the idea of a drag-centered gallery exhibition, I was intimidated but excited nonetheless to bring together a group of queer creatives and combine a shared love for art, performance, and drag. I think that goal of curating a unique and beautiful show was achieved as I stood in awe on the night of the opening ceremony and gazed at the crowd of gallery attendees and witnessed the joy that filled the space. What has been achieved, as the exhibition comes to a close, is space provided for local queer artists was the starting point for their work to be seen (some for the first time) in a beautiful gallery. I think the drag show was many attendees' first time seeing drag performances and I hope it created conversations within community members and peak their interests to go to more shows. Finally, I overcame challenges and my own insecurities that arose during this process, and I think I came out the other side with pride. I want to thank Sean Barnes for his endless support and the wisdom and experience he offered me in the months leading up to the exhibition. To have a finished show that surpassed my own initial vision is a beautiful outcome.

FOREWORD

Transformative Art

The Power of Drag in Identity and Community showcasing local Olympia artists for the Olympia Drag: A Candid Glimpse at Fashion, Art, and Performance at Leonor R. Fuller Gallery at South Puget Sound Community College.

ASHLY MCBUNCH

Art bridges our humanity and pushes for it to flourish while creating space for authenticity. Opportunities for self-expression that challenge societal norms grow from that authentic moment, meaning art speaks to the soul at its core. Our soul then can answer how we see ourselves within the world around us. The complexities of identity are evident in every artist's method of creation. Audiences are then given the chance to engage in the act of being present within the space the artist created. The art of drag, a vibrant and transformative medium, boldly explores and challenges conventional and traditional views of identity and gender.

According to some historians, drag dates back to the 5th century BC in ancient Greece, while in contrast, others may suggest the 1500s, at the time of Shakespeare, or the rise of the vaudeville era of the 19th century as the most historically significant drag beginnings. One could argue that the exploration of drag began with the creation of how clothing defines a person's identity. Agreeing when drag was formed can be as difficult as determining what drag is. The act of defining drag places limitations around an art form meant to expand past boundaries; however, one may say drag is about artistic expression, resistance to control over one's body or a personal healing journey. Regardless of when drag started or its definition, it dissolves our preconceived limitations about gender, identity, and the ways we view ourselves and the world, fostering cultural change. It is vital to delve into the challenge drag faces within society overall of this cultural change and develop an understanding of the historical context of drag, from its potential origins in ancient Greece to more recent cultural significance to embrace all it has to offer. The willingness to understand the connection of drag as art, allows humans of all backgrounds to be seen.

Drag is far more than theatrical entertainment that provokes an emotional response or exaggerated personas. Viewing drag solely for late-night venues or television undermines its expansive potential as an art form. It is a conduit to one's own acceptance. Stereotypes not only attempt to remove the artistry of drag but also deny audiences the opportunity to understand its richness. A bold stance to restrictive societal definitions of being human, drag allows space for anyone to engage through introspection. Room is given to develop new perspectives, use different techniques to dismantle rigid boundaries, and embrace multifaceted misconceptions about expressing oneself. Drag blends the talents of fashion, storytelling, and performance art into a narrative that is deeply centered around who a person is and how they are presented to the world. Through photography, costume design, painting, and more, drag artists continually embrace the triumphs and failures that define the human experience. Drag provides a visual and emotional vocabulary for the multitude of identities we embrace and allows audiences to take part in the act of dismantling the traditional frameworks built around the self.

The exhibition Olympia Drag: A Candid Glimpse at Fashion, Art, and Performance, curated by Garrett Leonard, showcases the depth of drag as both an art form and a community practice. Diverse voices within and beyond Olympia's drag scene, including individuals from different racial, cultural, and gender backgrounds, cultivate an experience for an audience to view the universal connections forged through artistic expression. This intergenerational group of artists offers unique creative perspectives on identity, and each has varying relationships with drag from knowledge of the art form to participation in it. Together, these artists highlight the vital role of drag in creating spaces for connection, self-reflection, and growth. The artistic narrative of identity through displayed artwork and drag performances weaves the connection between artists of all spectrums within the community. Black and white self-portrait photographs, handcrafted headpieces and paintings exploring spirituality and self, sewn looks, and photography of the local events and residents, the exhibition provided the grace for viewers to experience the introspection of gender and identity.

From a historical perspective, the trajectory of drag in mainstream media is correlated to stories of erasure—particularly for those from marginalized and underrepresented communities found within LGBTQIA2S+ groups. To honor the legacy of those who came before and to establish historical significance can feel like a race against the next attempt to deny drag or the LGBTQIA2S+ experience within art. Erasure also destroys the opportunity for any person to learn more about their own identity regardless of how they identify. The journey of identity within any community is a profoundly personal one. This exhibit provides a brief look into the artistic journey within the local LGBTQIA2S+ community. It embodies universal themes of acceptance, interconnectedness, and resilience through unique creative expressions. Drag, being one of the many forms of expression, explores these themes as a living canvas, celebrating the act in an interactive collective way yet on an individualized level. By reading the marks of self-expression etched into the artist's work—whether on a canvas, a stage, or through movement—audiences witness the transformative light of identity that no one should seek to deny.

The act of identifying with others to connect through the soul is art. Suppression of this act silences voices within creative spaces. It places restraints on the connection between the artist and their audience. It is an act that denies the beauty of human duality and smothers the richness of our shared existence. The art of drag reminds us to allow space for growth, connection, and dialogue. It reminds us that art is not only available within a restrictive definition of what art is. Through Olympia Drag art performances and exhibition we are reminded of art's creative and transformative power, inviting all who engage with it to rethink the boundaries of identity and embrace the possibilities of authentic self-expression. It dares the audience to reconsider the definitions that define their personal story and solidifies the importance of viewing the expansive art forms within your local community.

Author's Note: *Ashly McBunch (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer and performer whose work explores abstract ideas around identity, resilience and healing. Ashly drew inspiration from insights gathered through personal reflection of the exhibit, conversations with some of the local artists and participants, and their own involvement as a performer and artist during the exhibition.*

OLYMPIA DRAG:

A Candid Glimpse at Fashion, Art, and Performance

Curated by Garrett Leonard

September 16 – October 18, 2024

SPSCC and the Leonor R. Fuller Gallery proudly presented an immersive contemporary exhibition curated by Garrett Leonard, illustrating drag in art, fashion, and performance. Drag and art have been intertwined for centuries in art, literature, fashion, storytelling and performance. Drag transforms human relations, engages community, and interrogates conventional boundaries. Drag employs costume design, makeup artistry, design, photography, and stage presentation to subvert societal norms and notions of gender as well as explorations of empowerment and the alter-ego. Olympia's drag community exemplifies these traditions.

ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS

Aya

Ovary Act

Hellen Back

Sandra Bocas

Natalie Coblentz

Delyla Dalyte

Llyn De Danaan

Casey Joy Dealan-de

Lucy Elleballs

Monsieur Encore

Dana Evans

Sable Jones St. James

Jasmine

Jinx

Larry Lorraine

Grace Gittel Lewis

Loverboy

Ashly McBunch

The, Carrie Morningwood!

Sullivan (Luna DeLyte)

Symmextra

Ollie Trechsel

Rand the Vampire

Baba Yayas

SANDRA BOCAS

Tryptic 1

3 Photographs
printed on
watercolor paper
7" x 9"





SANDRA BOCAS

Tryptic 2

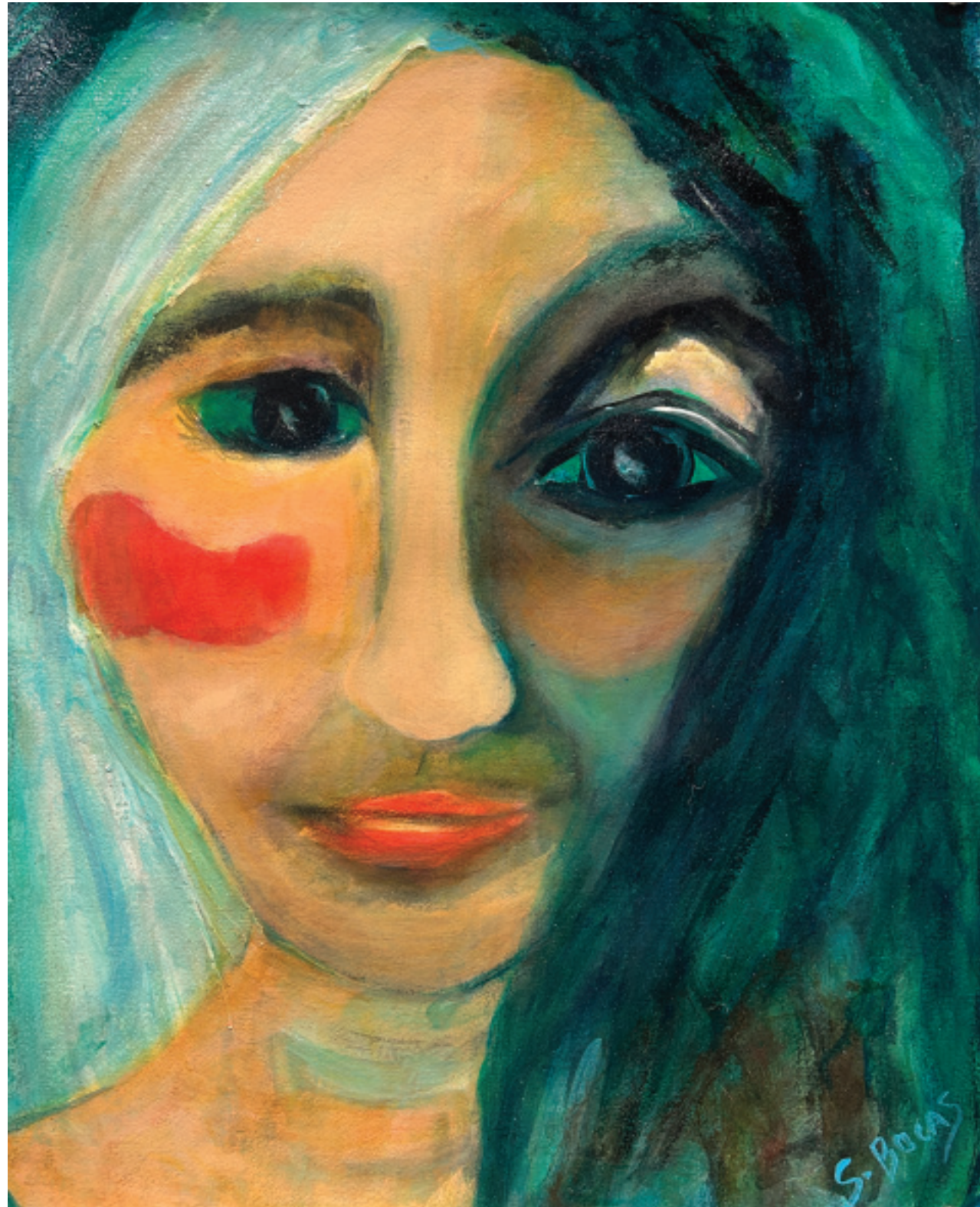
3 Photographs printed on watercolor paper
8" x 10"



SANDRA BOCAS

Untitled

Acrylic on paper
30" x 22"



SANDRA BOCAS
Shy Boy
Acrylic on paper
20" x 16"



Capital City Pride

Archives from Capital City Pride Events 2023 - 2024

LUCY ELLEBALLS

Morningwood Manor Midsummer's Night

Cream! Performer

Photo by WildTiny Productions

2024



LUCY ELLEBALLS

Capital City Pride

Sip n' Seek & Something Sweet Host

Photo by WildTiny Productions

2024





RAND THE VAMPIRE
Capital City Pride Patron
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024



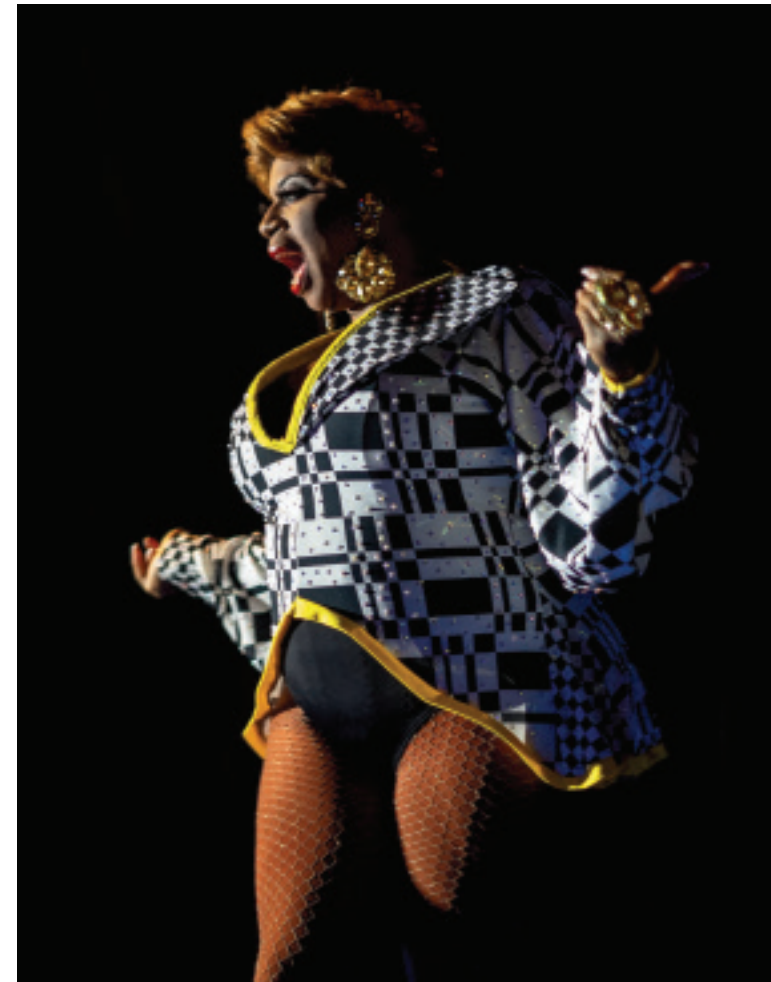
HELLEN BACK
Capital City Pride Block Party Performer
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024



OVARY ACT
Capital City Pride Block Party Performer
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024



DELYLA DALYTE
Capital City Pride Block Party Performer
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024



LUNA DELYTE
Capital City Pride Block Party Host
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024

JINX
Capital City Pride Day Festival Performer
Photo by Psychi.Media
2024

SABLE JONES ST. JAMES
Capital City Pride Homo for the Hologays Performer
Photo by Patrick Fifelski
2023

MONSIEUR ENCORE
Capital City Pride Homo for the Hologays Performer
Photo by Patrick Fifelski
2023



NATALIE COBLENTZ
Self Portrait, 2001
Linocut
11" x 14"



NATALIE COBLENTZ
American BIPOC Queer, 2001
Silkscreen
11" x 14"



LLYN DE DANAAN

Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade
"Things are never so bad that they
can't be made worse."
10" x 12"



LLYN DE DANAAN

Radclyffe Hall and her Dachshund
at Crufts Dog Show, 1937
"The world hid its head in convention that
by seeing nothing it might avoid truth."
10" x 12"

LLYN DE DANAAN

Oscar Wilde
"Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken."
10" x 12"



LLYN DE DANAAN 4

Djuna Barnes
"Whoever is ringing this bell, please go the hell away."
10" x 12"





LLYN DE DANAAN

Salvador Dali

"Have no fear of perfection... you'll never reach it."

10" x 12"



LLYN DE DANAAN

Luis Bunuel

"Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are a cheese."

10" x 12"



LLYN DE DANAAN

Marilyn and Jean

20" x 26"



LLYN DE DANAAN

Lisa

20" x 26"

CASEY JOY DEALAN-DE

Pretty

Mixed media collage, painting,
found object, and photograph.
16" x 12"



I AM SUPER GLUE SPEWING UP MY
GUTS I HOLD EVERYTHING
TOGETHER FOR YOU I STAY IN
MY DRAWER BESIDE THE
PAPERCLIPS AND LOOSE
TACKS WAITING UNTIL YOU NEED
ME AGAIN AND YOU WILL USE ME
UP UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT
INSIDE ME TO GIVE BECAUSE THAT
IS WHAT I AM MADE FOR

CASEY JOY DEALAN-DE

Super Glue

Mixed media, painting, and found object
16" x 12"

WHEN I DIE I WANT YOU TO LAY ME
DOWN ON MY DEATH BED
PUT ON A SITCOM FROM THE '80s
THE ONE I'D WATCH AS A KID
WHEN EVERYTHING FELT
PROMISED I WANT YOU
TO TELL ME RAMTHA IS
REAL THAT HE WILL MEET
ME IN HEAVEN I WANT YOU
TO TELL ME THAT I DID THE BEST
I COULD THAT I WAS ENOUGH

CASEY JOY DEALAN-DE

Enough

Mixed media, painting, and photograph
16" x 12"

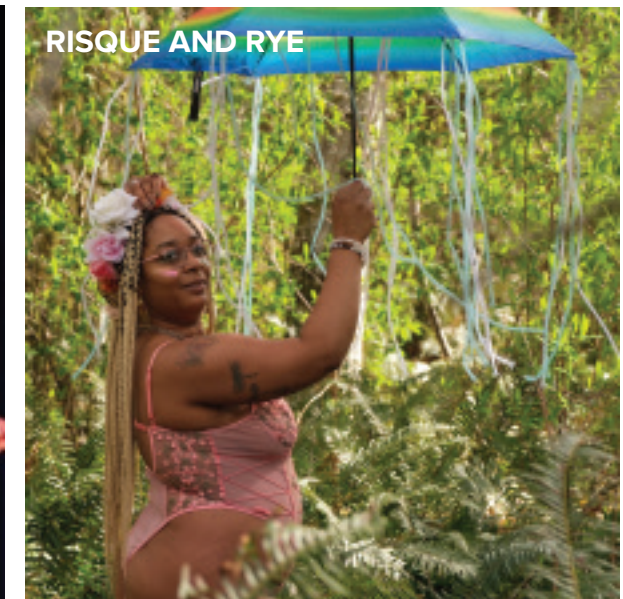
Olympia Drag Exhibition

Opening Reception Performers

VENDETTA PETTY KASH DHO



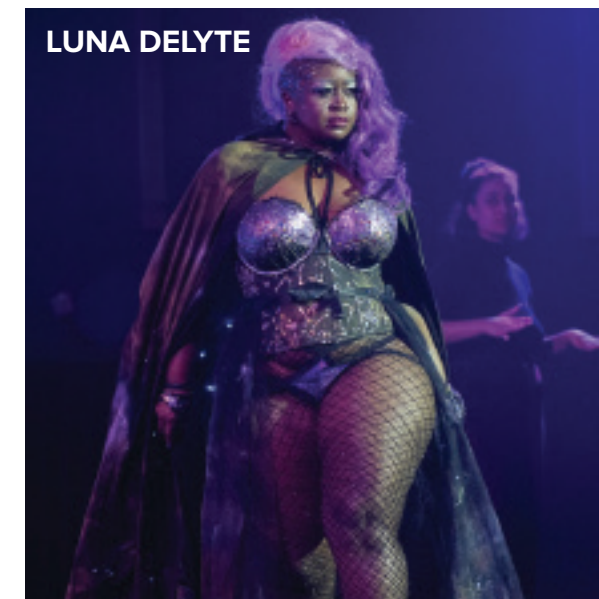
RISQUE AND RYE



BABA YAYAS



LUNA DELYTE



Olympia Drag Exhibition

Opening Reception Performers



RISQUE AND RYE

Olympia Drag Exhibition
Opening Reception Performance.



VENDETTA PETTY KASH DHO

Olympia Drag Exhibition
Opening Reception Performance.



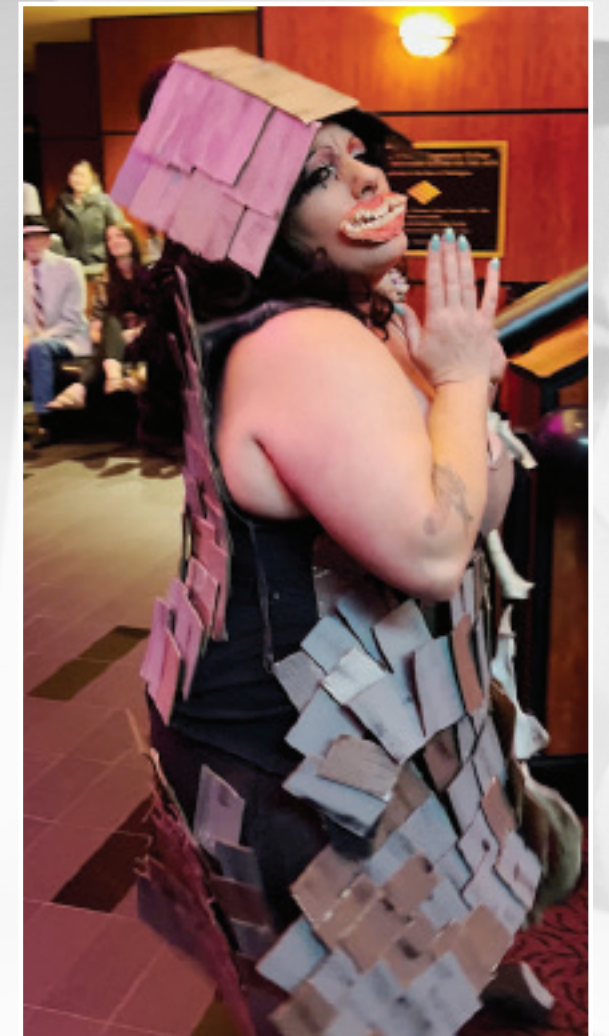
LUNA DELYTE

Olympia Drag Exhibition
Opening Reception Performance.



BABA YAYAS

Olympia Drag Exhibition
Opening Reception Performance.



DANA EVANS (HE/HIM/SHE/HER)

Various Outfits

Made almost entirely from reclaimed or salvaged materials. "Speaking to how my own identity is laced in resourceful and fantastic expression."



Left to right

DANA EVANS (HE/HIM/SHE/HER)

Wizard Hat

Salvaged fabrics, embellished with rhinestones, fabric paint over a straw hat.

DANA EVANS (HE/HIM/SHE/HER)

Birdo, character from Mario Party

Styrofoam, party cups, and acrylic paint.

DANA EVANS (HE/HIM/SHE/HER)

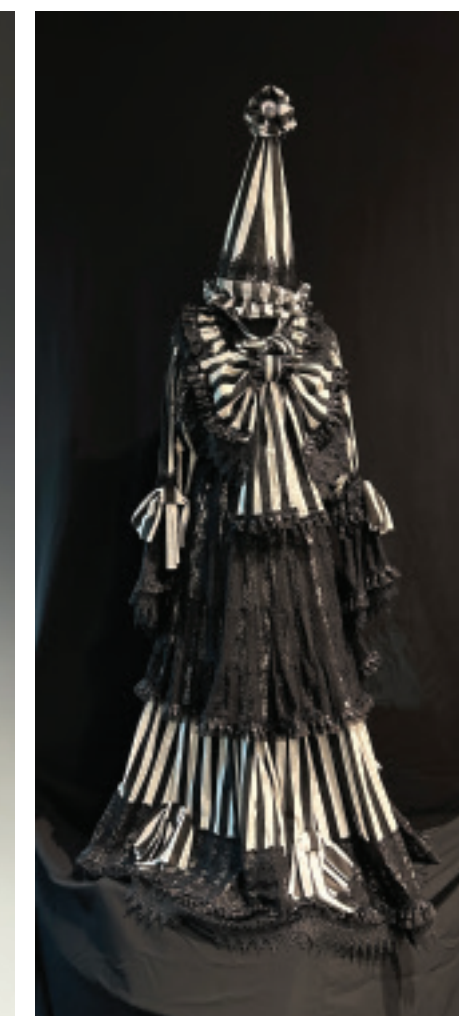
Black and White Striped Gown

Made almost entirely from reclaimed or salvaged materials. "Speaking to how my own identity is laced in resourceful and fantastic expression."

DANA EVANS (HE/HIM/SHE/HER)

Florals and Lace Gown

Made almost entirely from reclaimed or salvaged materials. "Speaking to how my own identity is laced in resourceful and fantastic expression."





JASMINE
DJ Symmextra
Photograph
18" x 24"



GRACE GITTEL LEWIS
Lahsael
Digital Illustration, 2023.
11" x 16"

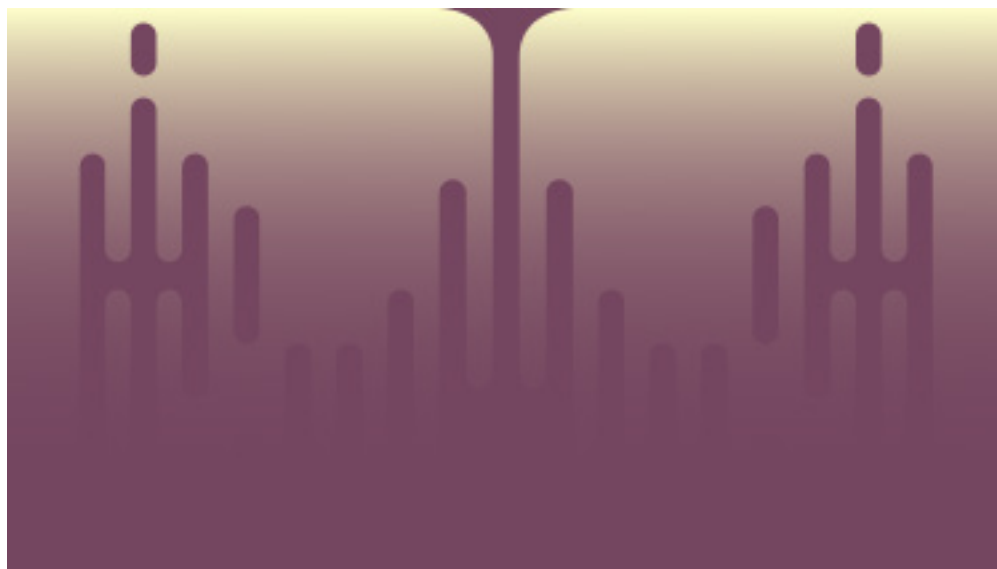


GRACE GITTEL LEWIS
Mouth of Veshalbahn
Digital Illustration, 2023.
12.8" x 7.2"



GRACE GITTEL LEWIS

Tyshj
Digital Illustration, 2024.
12.8" x 7.2"



GRACE GITTEL LEWIS

*The Organ Fades as
All Things Appear*
Digital Illustration, 2024.
11" x 16"



GRACE GITTEL LEWIS

Desemetir
Digital Illustration, 2022.
12.8" x 7.2"



Left to right

LOVERBOY

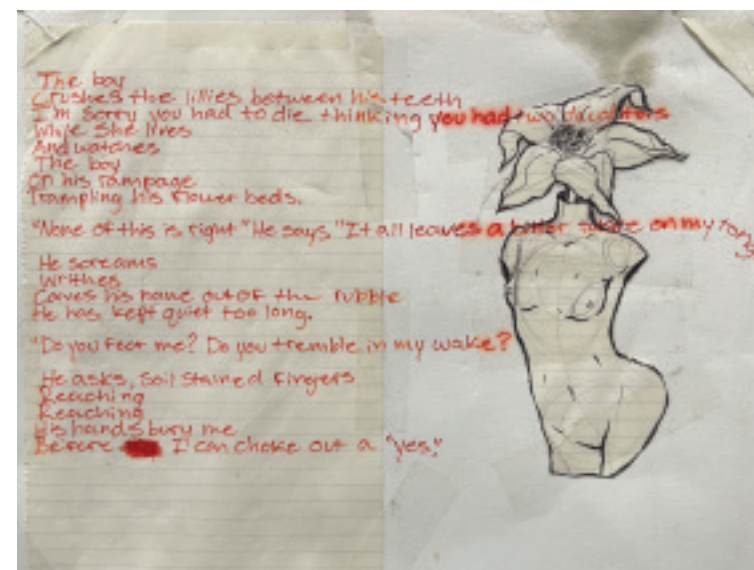
Him
Pen and ink, and marker
8.5" x 11"

LOVERBOY

Worthy
Collage on canvas
9" x 9"

LOVERBOY

The Boy
Pen and ink, and collage
11" x 8.5"





LARRY LORRAINE
Where'd All My Money go?
Photograph
8" x 10"



LARRY LORRAINE
Agape
Photograph
8" x 8"



LARRY LORRAINE
Aya
Photograph
8" x 8"



LARRY LORRAINE
Rock-A-Bye
Photograph
11" x 14"



LARRY LORRAINE
C10H14N2
Photograph
11" x 14"



LARRY LORRAINE
Playground Safety
Photograph
11" x 14"

LARRY LORRAINE
Designer Bags
Photograph
8" x 10"





ASHLY MCBUNCH
A Pause Request
Poem and 16" x 20" acrylic painting

A Pause Request

This is a call to my free spirit.

Transform me.

Transform me into a being vulnerable enough to accept
the whispered comfort of the
dance of hanging flowers.

Let them lead me into a sway,
a gentle embrace.

Let them pull me into a curve
full of fragrance progressing in present time.

Let them catch my weary heart.

Oh, free spirit, guide me to listen to this vessel.

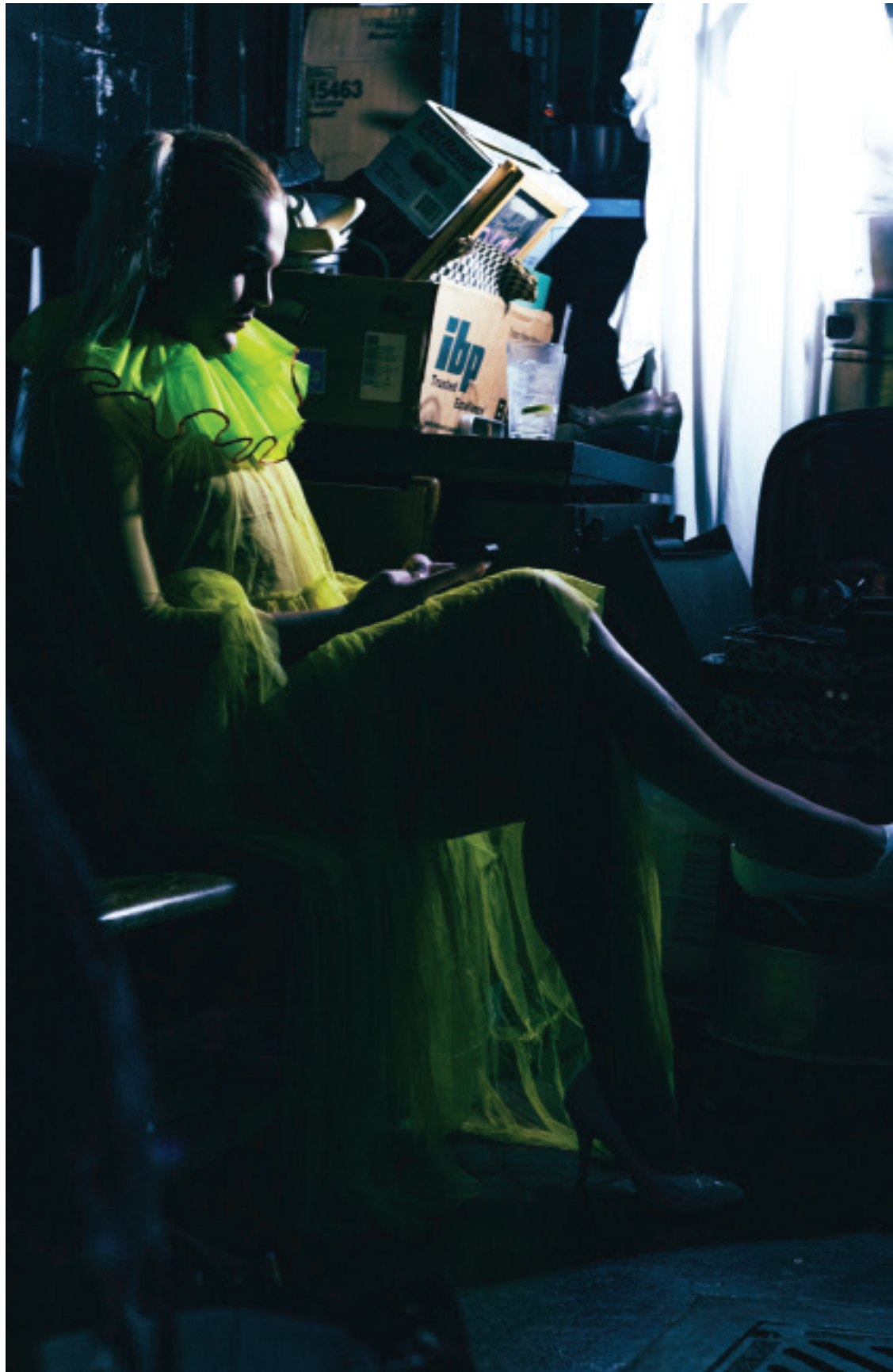
To make my run a walk,
to make my walk a pause.

Let me replenish my body with clear waters
reflecting the depths of colors in blended simplicity.

Let me honor the space between a breath,
accept the silence between thoughts
and bask in the radiance of grounded stillness.

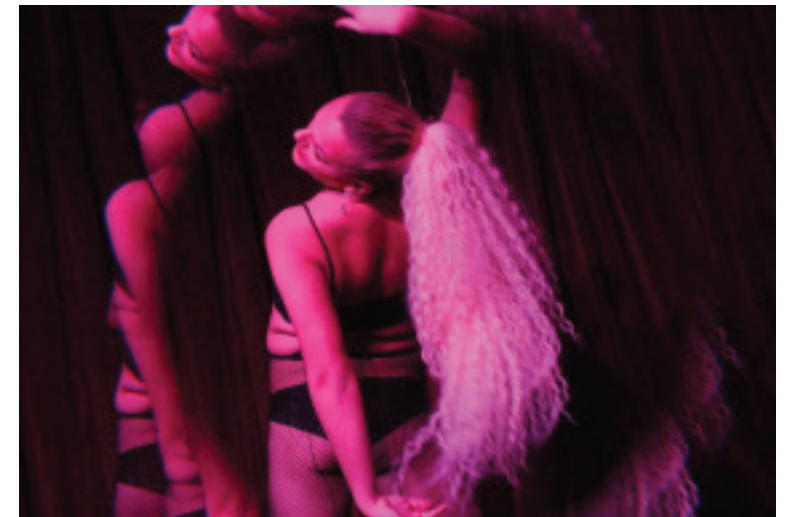
Oh, free spirit, let me feel truly
free.

Ashly McBunch, June 2022
Olympia Poet Laureate 2021-2023



**THE, CARRIE
MORNINGWOOD!**

Photography by Hannah
Lund and Misty Steppe
Performances of Free-
Range Drag and
Morningwood Manor.



**SULLIVAN
(LUNA DELYTE)**

Mask

Performed for Winter
Slumber Spring Ritual
and Rage of the Mother
Creator: Sullivan
(Luna DeLyte)



SULLIVAN (LUNA DELYTE)

*Red Hat, Performed for the act
"Teapot Hot to Go"*

Worn by/made by
Luna DeLyte
Creator: Dana Evans



SULLIVAN (LUNA DELYTE)

Angel Headpiece

Performed as Gay-briel
in annual Queer Pagent
for a local church.
Creator: Sullivan
(Luna DeLyte)



SYMMEXTRA (THEY/THEM)

Girl Talk

Acrylic paint, pencil, watercolor, and sharpie
16" x 20"



**SYMMEXTRA
(THEY/THEM)**

Neon Tokyo

Acrylic paint
24" x 36"



**I WILL BREAK OPEN
I KNOW BLOOD
I WILL BE PART OF IT
I HAVE KNOWN DAMAGE
I WILL SEEK SILENCE
I TRUST THIS PATH.
I AM MANY
I CRY IN PAIN
I HAVE ROOM FOR YOU TOO**

OLLIE TRECHSEL
Protection Angel
Mixed media painting
4' x 3'

**I WILL DEFEND THE WORLD
I WILL KICK DOWN THE DOOR
I WILL SCREAM IN FURY
I WILL OPEN YOUR EYES
I WILL LISTEN TO THE VOICES
I WILL KNOW WHAT I TRUE
I WILL BE BLEEDING
I WILL STOP THIS NOW
I WILL SHARPEN THE SWORD
I WILL LIGHT THE FIRE
I WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH**



OLLIE TRECHSEL
Protection Angel
Mixed media painting
4' x 3'



OLLIE TRECHSEL
Source Angel
Mixed media painting
3' x 3'

**I HOLD YOU IN SILENCE
I STAND AT THE DOORWAY
I KNOW THE DARKNESS
I AM IN BETWEEN
I TRUST YOUR PATH
I HOLD THE LANTERN
I HAVE CARRIED YOU THIS FAR
I LET YOU FALL OPEN
I COME FROM YOUR PEOPLE
I PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN
I WEAVE THE SPELL**



Top
OLLIE TRECHSEL
Drag Angel
Mixed Media
28" x 24"

Top Right
OLLIE TRECHSEL
Toilet Person
Mixed media painting
2' x 3'



Bottom
OLLIE TRECHSEL
Drag Jesus
Mixed Media
24" x 16"



OLLIE TRECHSEL
Self Portrait with Broom
Mixed media painting
5' x 3'



OLLIE TRECHSEL
Self Portrait with Snake
Mixed media painting
5' x 3'



BABA YAYAS

Performances:

Catastrophic Cabaret 2024

Morningwood Manor 2024

Free Range Drag 2022 and 2023

Sparkle 2024

Sucia

Photography Credits:

Raphael Octavius IG @Raphdoesthings

Misty Steppe IG @misty_steppe_photography

Hannah Lund IG @_emellor_

Vanessa the Witch @vanessathewitch

Eddie Valdovinos @valdovinosv





BABA YAYAS

Queen of Hearts; dress and bustle

Red velvet dress, bustle, and black tulle. Dimensions variable

BABA YAYAS

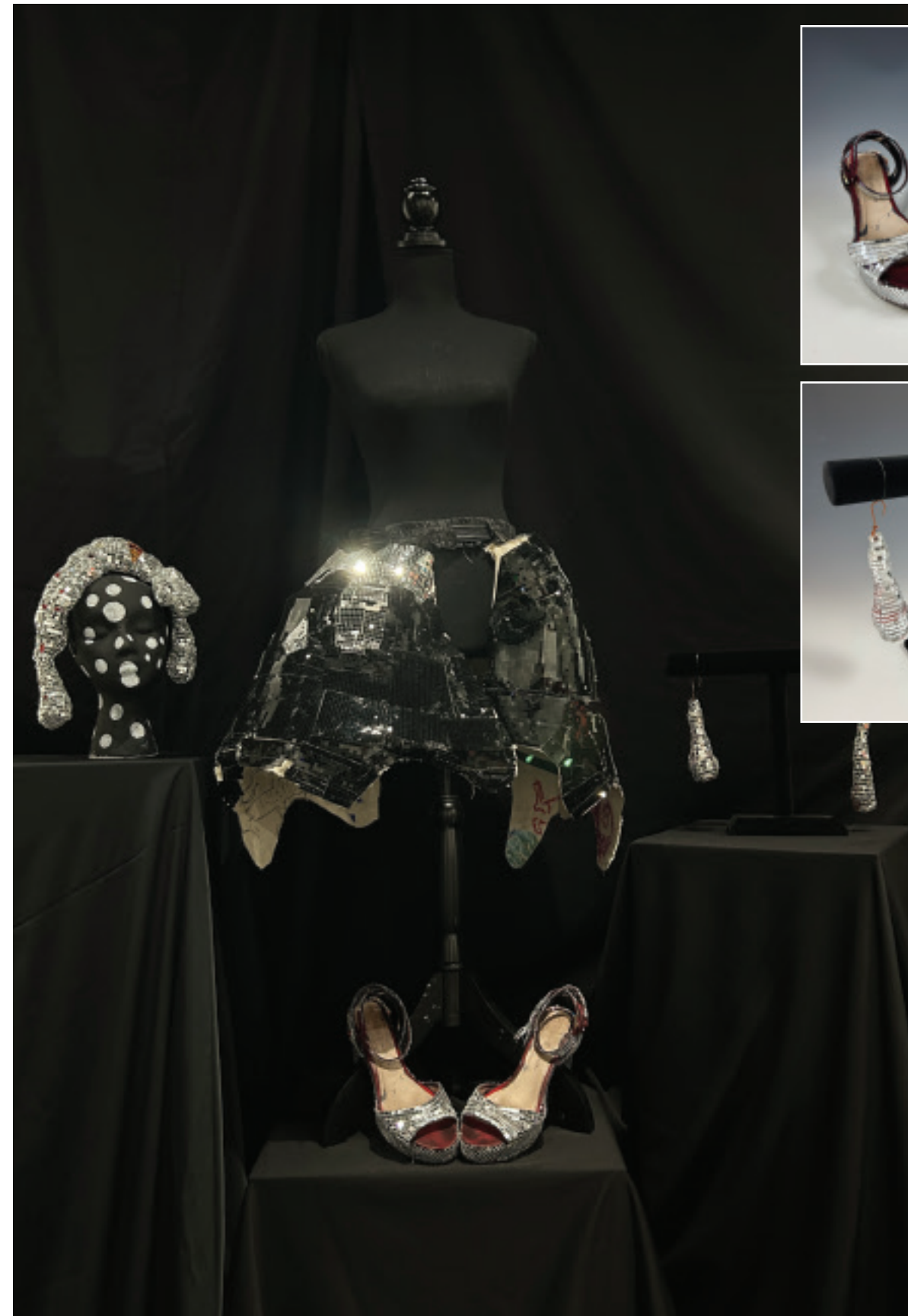
Queen of Hearts; wig

Curly red wig embellished with ruby red beads. Dimensions variable

BABA YAYAS

Queen of Hearts; pasties

Ruby encrusted pasties. Dimensions variable



BABA YAYAS

Disco Queen; disco fascinator head piece

Disco mirrors and mixed media. Dimensions variable

BABA YAYAS

Disco Queen; block heels

Disco mirrors, embellished with human teeth and rhinestones. Dimensions variable

BABA YAYAS

Disco Queen; blob earrings

Disco mirrors, mixed media. Dimensions variable



BABA YAYAS

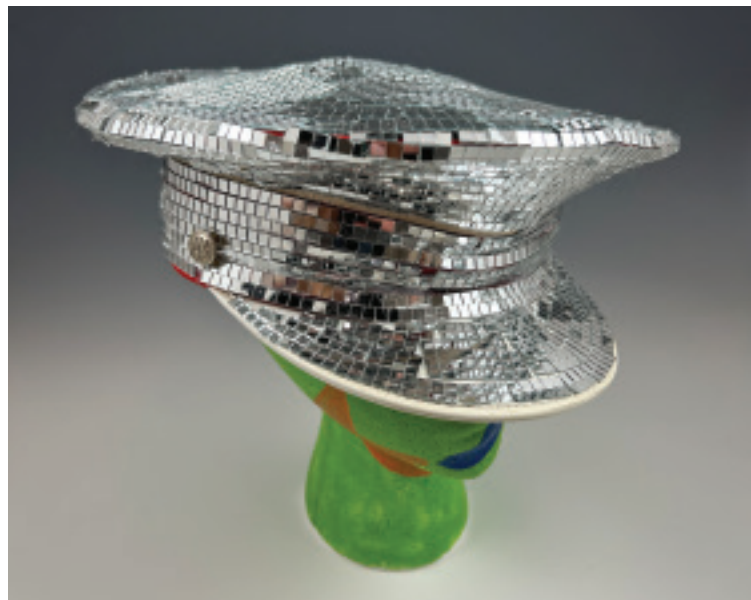
Seeing Spots

Cruella De Vil wig, made by Hair Witch LLC / Athena Sinclair, with applied black spots. Dimensions variable

BABA YAYAS

Disco Inferno

Disco mirrors, conductor hat. Dimensions variable



BABA YAYAS

Tube Man

Wire infrastructure covered with fabric, face is made with glitter and mesh eyes. Dimensions variable

OLYMPIA DRAG



Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts
2011 Mottman Road SW
Olympia, WA 98512

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Facebook and Instagram with handle [@spsccgallery](https://www.instagram.com/spsccgallery)



spscc.edu/gallery